

2017

History of Desegregation in West Virginia - Slides

Ashley Porter

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West Virginia: The Desegregation of Schools

Public Schooling and Public Colleges

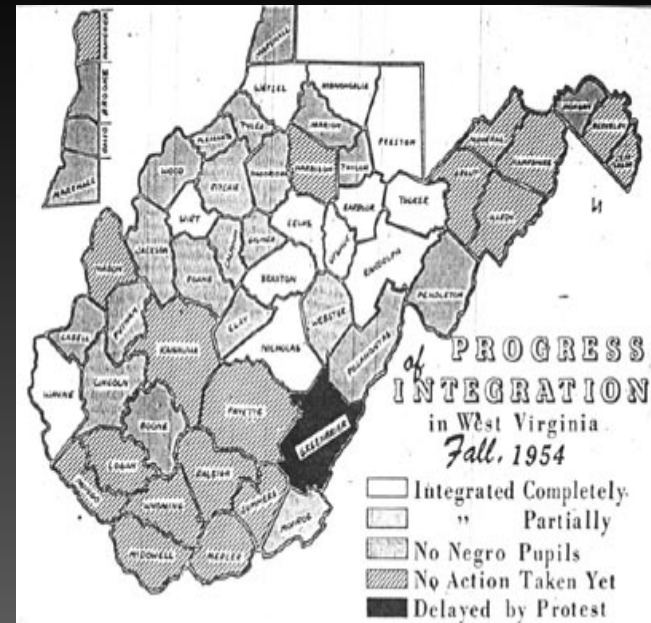
What is *Desegregation*?

Desegregation- the elimination of laws, customs, or practices under which people from different religions, ancestries, ethnic groups, etc., are restricted to specific or separate public facilities, neighborhoods, schools, organizations, or the like. (dictionary.com)



1954

- **May 17th** - the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregated schools were unlawful.
- **July 7th** - The Monongalia school board stated that “all Negro pupils will be admitted and integrated this school year in the school located within their respective residential areas.”
- **September 16th** - The Greenbrier Independent newspaper declared that Greenbrier County segregation was to continue at the beginning of that school year.





1955

- **May 4th**- When Kanawha county schools employed an African American man to teach a class for children that had impaired vision.
- **May**- There was a meeting with the West Virginia Club, assembling as an integrated group and previous counties that were segregated opposed it.
- **July 19th** - The superintendents of West Virginia county schools held an annual conference at Jackson's Mill with that all counties that had not begun integration should start at once.
- **September**- Storer College, which was a black college was closed down.



1956

- **1955–56** – The school year, with the exception of Glenville State, all institutions of higher learning in West Virginia had enrolled African-American students.
- At the end of the 1955-56 school year only 5 counties had not integrated: Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, and Jefferson.
- **October-November-** This revealed that the number of African Americans teaching in integrated schools was 1419 (this didn't include Kanawha County) and 22 counties had fully integrated but 3 had taken no action.

Dorothy Vaughan



Date of Birth: September 20, 1910

Hometown: Kansas City, MO

Education: B.A. in Mathematics at Wilberforce University in 1929

Started at NACA: December 1943

Retired from NASA: 1971

Died: November 10, 2008

Ties with West Virginia:

- Parents moved to Morgantown when she was 8.
- She attended public schooling in the state of West Virginia.
- The area that she attended school was in the city of Morgantown.
- She graduated from Beechurst High School in 1925 (at the age of 15) as the Valedictorian of her class.



Katharine Johnson

Date of Birth: August 26, 1918

Hometown: White Sulphur Springs, WV

Education: B.S. in Mathematics and French at West Virginia State College in 1937

Started at NACA: June 1953

Retired from NASA: 1986

Ties with Integration of West Virginia:

- She was one of the 3 African American Students to integrate West Virginia's graduate schools (West Virginia University)
- She went to West Virginia University where she attended a semester of classes





Extra Facts

- Colleges stated integration before public schools did.
- The amount of schools as a whole in West Virginia were 86 elementary schools, 12 junior high schools, and 37 senior high schools.
- The elementary school, Beechurst Elementary, consisted of only two classes of forty-nine students that attended there in 1909
- Kelly Miller (a school in Clarksburg) had student coming from the cities of Weston, Grafton, Philippi, Buckhannon, and Morgantown.
- There were 9 counties in West Virginia where there was not an African American population at all.

Work Cited:

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